

administration's request for Afghanistan.

While I applaud the funding in this bill for Sudan and other humanitarian needs in Africa, I was disappointed that the administration did not seek robust funding for the fledgling democracy in Liberia and the critical transition in Haiti. I am pleased that the committee accepted an amendment by Representative JACKSON to add \$50 million in assistance to Liberia. It is important that the United States send a strong message of support to Liberia, particularly as we prepare to receive President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the first woman to be elected head of state in Africa.

This money will provide critical short-term support to meet refugee and humanitarian needs, as well as to help stabilize Liberia in the initial months of her administration. First Lady Laura Bush and Secretary Rice pledged that the U.S. would stand by Liberia during this period of transition, and I think our bill with the addition of \$50 million in economic support funds does just that.

Finally, let me speak to the bulk of funding in the foreign operations bill which is for Iraq. I am not convinced that providing more money for Iraq will cure the problems for that country. But I will support the additional funding because I think we owe our men and women in uniform in Iraq every tool to achieve success.

I am dismayed that the committee defeated on a party-line vote, however, my amendment to ensure proper oversight of these additional resources. My amendment would have simply placed the additional funds in the foreign operations title of the bill under the oversight of the Special Inspector General for Iraq, as is the case for prior funds appropriated for assistance to Iraq.

By voting against this commonsense amendment, the Republicans in our committee sent the message to American taxpayers that while Congress expects them to bear the burden of reconstructing Iraq, the Republicans in Congress are not interested in ensuring that the money is accounted for and effectively spent. I hope the issue is corrected when the bill is taken up by the Senate. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), my mentor, the former chairman of the Appropriations Committee, who now chairs the Subcommittee on National Security.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me the time. I want to compliment him for having produced this very important supplemental appropriations bill in record time, and a very good bill.

I want to expand a little on what the chairman has said about this bill. For example, we have increased the President's budget by \$850 million to ensure that Army tracked combat vehicles

such as Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles will be upgraded, especially for the units that will be rotating into Iraq in the coming months. An increase of \$360 million in equipment for the Marine Corps is provided based on an assessment of their most pressing shortfalls. And \$273.7 million additional is provided for Air Force procurement, including additional predators, electronic countermeasures to protect our aircraft, and funding to ensure the continuation of the C-17 production line.

Very importantly, Mr. Chairman, the committee recommendation supports and enhances the President's request for the National Guard and Reserve forces. We have included in the war supplemental portion of this bill a total of \$3.57 billion for the Guard and Reserve, an increase of \$320 million over the amounts requested by the President.

We have been able to add to the request the following items: \$230 million for the Abrams Tank Integrated Management or AIM program, to support fielding of National Guard combat brigades; \$50 million for 42 Bradley fighting vehicles to complete two Army National Guard combat brigades; and \$40 million to cover shortfalls in the Army Reserve personnel accounts.

All and all, Mr. Chairman, this is a good bill. It does speak to the needs of those who are fighting the war. I highly recommend its passage.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 10 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier, this bill is here because of a massive failure of American leadership, which goes right to the very top in the White House.

We are going to be spending \$90 billion in this bill, most of which goes for Iraq, a war which was engaged in by our country, initiated by our country on the basis of bad information and manipulated intelligence. After we were in the war, we were told by the administration that Iraqi reconstruction would cost between \$1 and \$2 billion and could be financed by Iraqi oil revenues.

After the administration submitted its reconstruction request for over \$18 billion, Secretary Rumsfeld told us, "We just had no idea of how bad the Iraqi economy was."

That certainly is an understatement.

The administration then claimed that we would be greeted as liberators and that 6 months after the invasion, we could begin withdrawing troops. Since then, the insurgency has exploded. We have lost over 2,300 U.S. troops who have been killed. Thousands have been injured. Many more Iraqis have been killed and a continuing U.S. troop deployment in Iraq of around 130,000, down only slightly from the 150,000 in the year before.

We have had a failure to plan for adequately equipping our troops with armor. And as a result, our troops have been rummaging for scrap metal from

garbage dumps and they have had to deal with a myriad of other equipment shortages.

Then we have seen the disgraceful stories about Abu Ghraib. We have seen stories about torture all being done in the name of the United States, in the name of every citizen of this country. We have reports that more than 100 people have died in custody, and then we have reports that the administration is spying on Americans and eavesdropping on Americans. I want to make it clear, I want our government to eavesdrop on every person that it needs to eavesdrop on in order to protect this country, but I want it done in a way which is constitutional, and in a way which is in conformance with the law, not outside the law, and right now that is not the case.

So this bill comes before us with the United States divided and with the American people confused about what our mission is, what our purpose is, and what our plans are. And now we are asked to provide this additional money.

I will vote for this bill because, while I have grave misgivings about the war, and while I believe that Mr. Rumsfeld should have resigned a long time ago, I intend to support whatever money is necessary in order to support our troops. But having said that, let me just make another observation. We are going to be spending \$91 billion. \$19 billion is for Katrina. Over almost \$70 billion is for Iraq. And I am told that those funds will be expended at a rate of about \$6.8 billion a month. And yet we are going to be squabbling over the next 2 days over a fraction of that amount that some of us believe should be used to provide heating for our elderly, education for our kids, and medical care for our veterans.

Three years after this war began, does anybody here really believe the President of the United States when he tells us that this is all about bringing democracy and freedom to Iraq? \$400 billion and then some later, does anybody believe that Congress did the right thing when this Congress handed a blank check to the administration? After more than 17,000 Americans wounded in Iraq, does anyone think Congress was right to sit on its hands when it was clear that this White House and the civilian leadership at the Pentagon did not have the first clue about what they were doing?

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Mr. Chairman, in addition to the divisions which we face on Iraq, we face some other problems with this bill.

This bill, for instance, contains Mr. LEWIS' amendment shutting off and shutting down the ports transaction involving Dubai. At the same time, however, the committee blocked the Sabo amendment which would have created a process which would have guaranteed that our government would know each and every time such a transaction was being contemplated. Without the Sabo